

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-22 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 15 being independent and having been amended herein.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 16, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,352,327 (Yano et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,155,664 (Cook). Claims 5-14 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yano et al. and Cook and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0174180 (Nunokawa). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Yano et al. is directed to a printing apparatus and method, in which the type and number of mounted printheads can be detected. Based on whether black and/or color printheads are mounted, the printing speed is increased or decreased. However, Yano et al. is not believed to disclose or suggest at least that when discriminated that the kind of device is not determined and it is not detected that the recording is mounted, communicating means is prohibited from communicating with an information processing apparatus, and when discriminated that the kind of device is determined, the communicating means is permitted to communicate with the information processing apparatus without detecting whether the recording head is mounted, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 15.

Thus, Yano et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Cook is directed to an ink jet printer that can determine whether ink within a remote ink cartridge is compatible with ink within a print head cartridge, and the printer is controlled accordingly. Cook can verify proper installation of the print head cartridge and the remote ink cartridge. When an improper installation is determined, a message is generated in order to notify the user of the problem. However, even if the teachings of Cook were incorporated into the apparatus and method of Yano et al., at most the combination would result in an apparatus and method that controls driving conditions based on the type and number of printheads mounted, and that generates a message when a cartridge is improperly mounted. The message in Cook would be sent out based on the improper mounting, regardless of the position and number of mounted heads. Cook fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yano et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Nunokawa has also been reviewed, but is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, Claims 1 and 15 are patentable over the citations of record.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 15. Dependent Claims 2, 4-14, 16, and 18-22 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual

consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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